



ANDREAS BORGEAS  
COUNCILMEMBER

## City Addressing River Bluff Concerns

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**FRESNO, CA** (July 29, 2009) Major cooperative efforts have been initiated by Councilman Andreas Borgeas that involve the Fresno Police Department, City and County officials, and numerous stakeholders to address long standing and multi-jurisdictional issues relating to the River Bluff area, located in the City of Fresno and Madera and Fresno Counties.

The River Bluff area, which recently made headlines due to a destructive fire originating from the river bottom, has been in need of coordinated efforts to tackle a variety of civic and public safety issues, including, misuse of environmental lands, trespassing, graffiti and other criminal activity. This area faces a unique challenge because it is a multi-jurisdictional mixture of City, County, State, and Conservancy and Trust land.

Coordination efforts were formalized at a July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting at which stakeholders discussed ways to meet these challenges. Since then, the Fresno Police Department has installed a security camera and increased patrols, which have resulted in six arrests and the issuance of twenty citations relating to illegal activity in the River Bluff area.

Councilmember Borgeas explained, "The legal and jurisdictional complexities of the River Bluff area requires a comprehensive approach, and we commend the Fresno Police Department, City staff, and all the stakeholders for their willingness to tackle these civic and public safety concerns."

Police Chief Jerry Dyer stated, "We will continue to proactively monitor the River Bluff area for criminal activity and ensure families can enjoy this recreational area."

The City is currently exploring additional measures to ensure the safety of its citizens and ways to protect this valuable natural resource.

**For additional information please contact:**

Stephen Sotomayor, Councilmember Borgeas' Office, 559.621.7820/559.824.5282

Cynthia Valdez, Fresno Police Department, 559.621.2111